

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

APPLICANT(S): Vincent E. Bryan et al.

SERIAL NO.: 08/944,234 GROUP ART UNIT: 3309

FILED: October 6, 1997

TITLE: Drill Head for Use in Placing an Intervertebral Disc Device

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,

Washington, D.C. 20231

SIR:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97, Applicant(s) bring to the attention of the Examiner the accompanying U.S. Patent 5,810,827. The '827 patent discloses a bone cutting device. FIGS. 15A and 15B, drawing sheet 12, and FIG. 17, drawing sheet 14, show a milling head capable of milling a concave surface in a bone.

EXPLANATION OF RELEVANCE

The '827 patent does not address the problem of milling such a shape in spaces of small dimension, and it does not suggest applicants' milling head drive systems. A copy of this patent and the requisite form PT1449 accompany this Preliminary Amendment.

As of the date of mailing of this Information Disclosure Statement, a first Office Action on the merits has not been received in connection with the simultaneously filed Continuation application, and therefore, this Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(3), and no fee is necessary.

All claims of the application are submitted to be patentable over the teachings of any of the cited references, taken singly or in combination. Early consideration of the application is therefore respectfully requested.

Submitted by,



(Reg. 26,494)

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37 CFR 1.501 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT IN A PATENT (use several sheets if necessary)				Docket No. P98,0774	Serial No. 08/944,234			
				Applicant Bryan et al				
				Filing Date October 6, 1997	Group Art Unit 3309			
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner's Initials		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If appropriate	
	AA	5,810,827	09/22/98	Haines et al.	606	80	02/20/96	
	AB							
	AC							
	AD							
	AE							
	AP							
	AG							
	AH							
	AI							
	AJ							
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							Translation	
		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Yes	No
	AL							
	AM							
	AN							
	AO							
	AP							
	AQ							
OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)								
	AR							
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	AZ							
Examiner			Date Considered					
*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.								